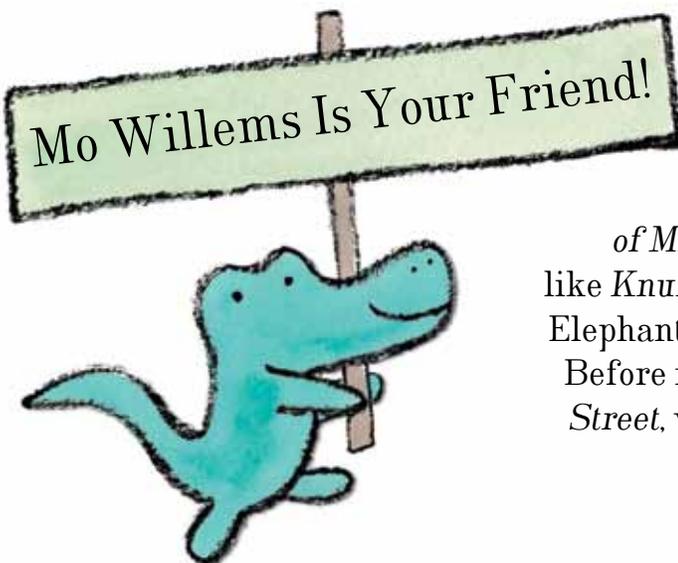
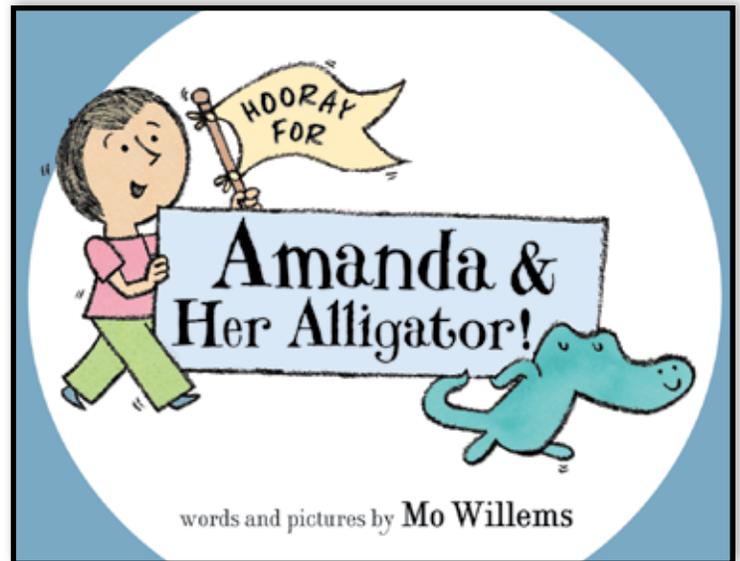




Amanda & Her Alligator!

About the Book

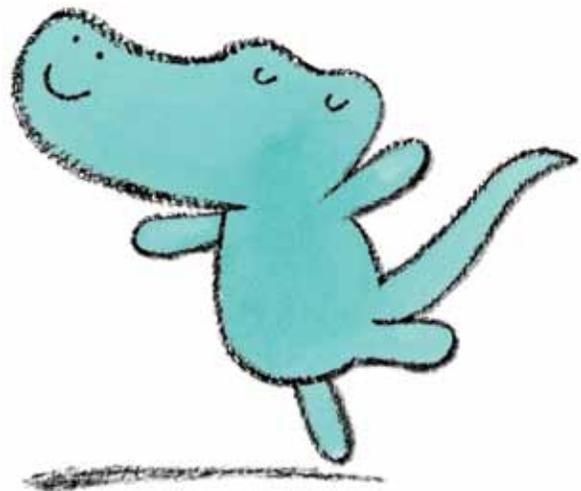
Amanda and Alligator are best friends. Sometimes Amanda surprises her alligator with books. Sometimes Alligator surprises Amanda by eating them. But one day, Amanda brings home a different kind of surprise—the kind Alligator does not like at all. A fluffy panda friend! What is Alligator to do?



Mo Willems likes writing and drawing funny books, such as the Caldecott Honor Books *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale*, and *Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity*. He also had fun creating favorites like *Knuffle Bunny Free: An Unexpected Diversion* and the *Elephant and Piggie* series, which won two Geisel Awards. Before making books, Mo wrote and animated for *Sesame Street*, where he won six Emmys and made lots of friends. Learn more about Mo at www.mowillems.com.

A Note for Grown-ups

The following is a list of suggestions for kids to help them appreciate friends, build new friendships, and think of ways to be thoughtful toward friends. Some can be done in the classroom or library, some are best done at home, and others can be done anywhere. Friendship is fun no matter where you are!



Making Friends

Making Discoveries

Think of a friend you'd like to know more about, or someone you don't know but who you'd like to be your friend. Sit down for an "interview" with the person and ask questions to find out something about him or her you didn't know before. (What is your favorite ice cream topping? If you could choose to meet any person or creature, who or what would it be? Do you prefer waffles or pancakes?) Have your friend interview you, too!



Books Beat Boredom

Learning about each other's interests is a friendly thing to do! Go to the library with a friend. Pick out a book for your friend to read and ask your friend to pick out a book for you to read. Then, when you've both finished your books, talk about the best parts and ask each other questions.

Fluffy Friends

Introduce your favorite stuffed-animal friend to a human friend, and ask your human friend to introduce you to his or her favorite stuffed-animal friend. The four of you can get to know one another in an interview (Making Discoveries) and eat a healthy snack together (Alligator Tails)!



The More the Merrier!

Alligator is nervous about Amanda having a new friend, but you don't have to have just one friend. Think about your friends and what you like about each of them. Who else would you like to be your friend? How can you let them know you'd like to be their friend?

Playing with Friends

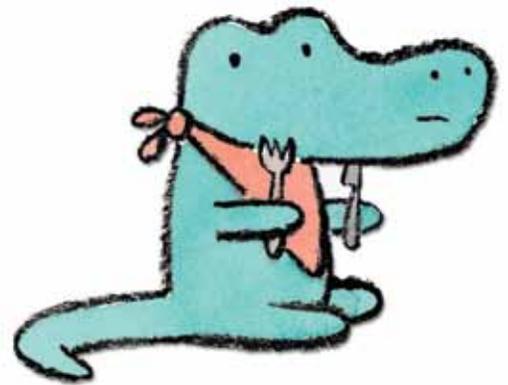
Old Thinking Cap



Need a little help coming up with fun things to do with your friends? Make a thinking cap! Start with an old hat (first ask a grown-up to make sure it's okay to use). Paint it, cut out shapes from paper or fabric to add, glue beads or sequins on—whatever will give you your best thinking power.

Alligator Tails

While you're waiting for a friend to come over and play, make a healthy snack to share. With a grown-up's help, spread cream cheese on celery sticks. You and your friend can enjoy them together!



Dressing Up!

Panda and Alligator have a great time dressing up. Now it's your turn! Dress up like your best friend. Your best friend can dress up like you, too!

Singing Silly Songs

Using just one word, write a silly song for your friend. You can use his or her name, or pick another word that reminds you of him or her. Choose or make up a tune, and put on a performance of the song for your friend.



Surprises for Friends



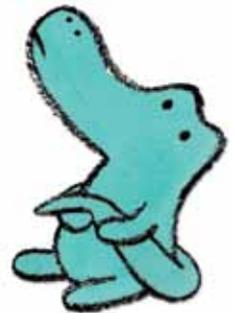
Telling the Truth (a Game)

Think of two things about yourself that are true, and make up one thing about yourself that isn't true. Tell a friend these three things, and have him or her guess what's true and what isn't. Then switch places—have your friend think of three things and you be the guesser!



No Good at Waiting

Waiting is hard, especially if you're waiting for something exciting! The next time you're waiting for a friend to come over and you need something to do, put together a "Waiting Survival Kit." Get a bag and fill it with fun things—a puzzle book, some toys, a granola bar—so you never have to say "I'm bored." Make one for your friend, too, as a surprise!



The Art of Friendship

Draw or paint a portrait of you and your best friend. Frame it with cardboard, fabric, Popsicle sticks, or anything else you can think of and give it to your friend as a present.

Book Hunt

The Pigeon hides in Mo's books for you to find. You can hide things for your friends to find, too! While you're waiting for a friend to come over and play, hide five books around the room. Have a book hunt, and when all of the books are found, sit down and read them together.

